

**Minutes
Board of Health Special Meeting
Chelan-Douglas Health District
July 2, 2020**

Jill Thompson, Mayor, Town of Waterville and Board of Health Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. The meeting was held via video-conferencing but participants could also attend by phone only, with login information posted on the opening page of the CDHD web site.

Board Members Present:

Jill Thompson, Mayor, Town of Waterville
Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner
Marc Straub, Douglas County Commissioner
Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner
John Sterk, East Wenatchee City Council
Ruth Esparza, Wenatchee City Council
Sharon Waters, Leavenworth City Council

Staff Present:

Bruce Buckles, Interim Administrator
Dr. Malcolm Butler, Health Officer
Cari Hammond, Associate Administrator, Personal Health
Kandis Boersema, Associate Administrator, Interim Board Secretary
Hilary Knelleken, Associate Administrator, Environmental Health
Veronica Farias, Health Communications Coordinator

Chuck Zimmerman, Chelan-Douglas Health District Attorney

Board Discussion

Jill Thompson, Board Chair, began the meeting welcoming Bruce Buckles, Interim Administrator for Chelan-Douglas Health District. Jill stated that during benefit negotiations with Bruce that it was decided to have CDHD and Aging and Adult Care, Bruce's current employer, enter into an Inter-Local Agreement whereby CDHD would pay his \$9,250 monthly salary directly to Aging and Adult Care and Bruce would retain his benefits through his current employer.

Dr. Butler, Health Officer, explained that the metric the State has in place to be eligible to move forward in the State's Phased Reopening plan is 25 or less positive cases per 100,000 population over a 2 week period. When Chelan and Douglas Counties applied for "Phase 1.9" the local numbers were around 50 per 100,000 and on a downward trend. He explained that the current local numbers are 126 per 100,000, or 5 times the metric the State requires, and the numbers appear to be moving upward. He stated that we are going the wrong direction and as busy as ever in the ICU. There is a local agriculture employer who had over 40 positives in their workforce recently. The Recovery Response Team has discussed the increase in positive cases and hospitalizations and there is a consensus to not submit an application at this time for the next phase of reopening. Dr. Butler's recommendation is that an application request for the next phase of reopening be submitted when we can show 75 (or less) per 100,000 and a plateau or downward trend in cases.

Dr. Rutherford, Confluence Health, stated that although the hospital is seeing an increase in patients they are managing it well at the current level of disease activity. If the cases plateau and are manageable, he believes we can move forward with a reopening proposal for the economy and allowing more social activity. Central Washington Hospital is provides regional healthcare services and must look at the disease burden for the entire regional area for planning for the future. With the increasing positive cases and additional hospital patients, he does not support submitting a proposal to the State for the next phase of reopening.

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner, stated that the numbers are disappointing but expressed appreciation to Dr. Butler for his willingness to view the metrics in a creative way in relation to the submittal of a proposal for the next phase. He stated that if we attempt to seek a waiver right now it can hurt our credibility with the State in future proposals. The Recovery Response Team will be ready to submit the reopening proposal within 24 hours of our case numbers meeting the metric that Dr. Butler believes is appropriate.

The COVID-19 Recovery Response Team gave an update on their progress toward submitting a Reopening Proposal to the State. Steve Wright, Chelan County PUD, spoke to the importance of a balance in economic health and physical health and offered continued financial support in the efforts of combatting COVID-19 in our communities. Dr. Karina Vega-Villa, Immigrant & LatinX Solidarity Group, spoke of the importance of slowing the spread of COVID-19 and the importance of working together for the common goal. Shiloh Burgess, Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce, thanked Chelan-Douglas

Health District and Dr. Butler for their efforts to assist in the reopening of the business community.


Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner, asked the media in attendance to contribute to the efforts by putting out public service announcements on importance of masking and other helpful information that can be shared to the public on what they can do to help reopen our local economy.

Doug England, Chelan County Commissioner, asked if the rise in positive cases can be attributed to an increase in testing or if our area is becoming a hot spot like Yakima County. Dr. Butler, Health Officer, stated that CVCH is seeing 6%-12% positive rate for the last month and it is not a direct result of increased testing but a sign of community spread. Dr. Rutherford, Confluence Health, stated that testing has increased by 50% in the last two weeks and the percentage of positive cases has increased from 3% to 11%. Hospitalizations are also increasing.

Ruth Esparza, Wenatchee City Council, asked whether asymptomatic or symptomatic people are being tested in our area and how positive cases who are asymptomatic are found. Dr. Butler, Health Officer, explained that asymptomatic cases are identified by contract tracing. When a symptomatic person tests positive they are contacted by a contact tracer within 24 to 48 hours who collect information on all of the people they were in contact with recently. The contacts are then called by contact tracers and told they were exposed and should be tested. Of the contact group, roughly half test positive and are asymptomatic. Discussion followed.

The next scheduled meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 9th at 3pm. The Board agreed that the meeting may be cancelled in the event of no pressing agenda items.

Jill Thompson, Board Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:12 pm.



Dan Sutton, Board Chair